Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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The National Translations Center

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Checking on a cataloging record in the temporary quarters of the National Translations Center are (from left): technical information specialists Karen Sturges-Vera, Benjamin Hull and Norman Lamb; clerk-typist Crystal Coleman; and head Karl Green. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

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Dr. Billington Testifies on Need for Increased Library Support

Congressional Hearing Held During WHCLIS II

Speaking on the need to improve both the national and international information networks, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington joined advocates from across the nation to present testimony at a joint congressional hearing July 11 during the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

Unlike most such events, this hearing was not held on Capitol Hill but in the ballroom of the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, near the Washington Convention Center. The room was filled to near-capacity with conference delegates.

Sen. Claiborne Pell, a Rhode Island Democrat, who cochaired the hearing with Rep. Pat Williams, a Montana Democrat, spoke of the unique role of the Library of Congress, as "the library of libraries," mentioning his pleasure in serving as the chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.

Explaining that libraries are both needed and needy, Dr. Billington said, "We all speak of the library without walls and of sharing our resources more widely, yet doing so will require not only additional resources but a worldwide acknowledgment of our dependence on this information and knowledge."

In his testimony, Dr. Billington described the evolving role of the Library of Congress as "the U.S. government agent for the international exchange of official government information."

Today, the Library receives more than 500,000 items annually from 15,000 exchange partners. "These publications are invaluable to the Congress, the U.S. government and scholars," he said.

Dr. Billington said more efforts need to be made to obtain hard-to-get materials "so that scholars can have rapid in-depth information on a variety of subjects, including recent scientific and technical literature."

Sen. Claiborne Pell (left), chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, and Dr. Billington discuss issues of importance to the nation's libraries during a break in the congressional hearing July 11.

While international networking is increasing in volume and importance, attention must also be given to the information centers within the United States, he said. "If the U.S. is to remain a dynamic, competitive nation, we need also to place far more emphasis on area studies within our schools and universities. Moreover, we must insist on foreign-language requirements in our secondary schools and in our colleges and universities. Worldwide communications networks will not be fully utilized until we improve the language capabilities of America's leaders of tomorrow."

Following the Librarian's statement, Sen. Pell asked him how the Library deals with requests from libraries overseas. Interlibrary loan programs and exchange of bibliographic information, including electronic tapes, were mentioned. Dr. Billington also noted that a formalized scientific and reference service is being developed. "We serve as a switching station as much as possible," he said, adding that within the United States, the Library directs callers to local and state libraries whenever their questions can be answered there. This accustoms callers to using local resources and also frees up the Library's specialists for inquiries of last resort.

Sen. Pell asked Dr. Billington and other witnesses about prison libraries, expressing his view that prisoners might benefit from access to libraries during incarceration.

Dr. Billington replied that he had just been told by the state librarian of California that prisoners there have more libraries available to them

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WHCLIS Delegates Adopt 94 Recommendations

Delegates to the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services concluded their work July 13 by adopting 94 recommendations during a nearly nine-hour voting session.

Issues addressed by the recommendations include access to information, the role of libraries in education and literacy, user fees (see story, page 305) and networking.

The final conference report is due to President Bush and Congress within 120 days. During the past year the 50 states, U.S. territories and federal libraries held preconferences in preparation for the July 9–13 Washington conference. Thousands of librarians, government officials, library supporters and the general public participated in the preconferences, and each state, territory and the federal sector sent delegates to Washington to present their recommendations. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington was a delegate-at-large to the conference.

On July 10 President and Mrs. Bush, at different sessions, addressed the conference. First lady Barbara Bush called libraries "one of the greatest gifts Americans have ever given to themselves."

Sen. Paul Simon admires the White House Conference pin on the lapel of the Librarian moments before the congressional hearing began.

Later that day, the president said, "The quest for the future begins with literacy. . . . Information is democracy's greatest and surest weapon and our world's greatest and surest hope."

Several members of Congress and other government officials addressed the conference. Among them was Rep. Major R. Owens, the only professional librarian ever elected to Congress. The New York Democrat said that if libraries are not improved and made more accessible to Americans, "America in the year 2000 [will be like] a human body without a backbone."

On the evening of July 11, conference delegates came to the Library's Madison Building for a reception hosted by the Librarian.

Some of the most noteworthy of the 94 recommendations were:

☐ The name of the Education Department should be changed to the Education, Libraries and Information Services Department;

☐ The amount and share of federal funding for libraries should be increased;

☐ Libraries should be made the center of the "America 2000" movement, whose goal, among others, is to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000;

☐ A White House Conference on Library and Information Services should be held and fully funded every decade (the last one was held in 1979);

☐ Congress should adopt a national preservation policy.

–Guy Lamolinara

WHCLIS *(Cont. from p. 303)*

per capita than do the schoolchildren of the state.

Other prominent library supporters joined Dr. Billington to testify at the hearing. Citing the acute and growing shortage of qualified librarians, New York State Education Commissioner Thomas Sobol and Robert Wedgeworth, dean of the School of Library Service, Columbia University, urged Congress to establish a National Library Corps.

The corps would prepare a new generation of librarians through preprofessional recruitment, low-cost loans and work-study, loan cancellations in exchange for work where most needed, and improvements in graduate library education.

The Rev. Timothy Healy, president of New York Public Library, spoke of the role of libraries not only in the preservation of democratic institutions, but also in "the increasingly important labor to export the dreams, ideas and hopes of democracy to the rest of the world."

"The beginning of the cure for the religious bigotry and racism . . . is always–and only–knowledge, and this we routinely offer," he said.

–Jennifer Johnson

LC Fee-for-Services Bill Introduced in Senate

Sen. Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, has introduced a bill (S-1416) authorizing the Library to provide certain specialized services on a fee basis.

The Rhode Island Democrat's bill, introduced June 27 at Librarian of Congress James H. Billington's request, is the product of more than a year of consultation by LC with library groups, notably the American Library Association, which, as one ALA spokeswoman put it, has long had a "philosophical" aversion to library fees for services. ALA has not opposed the bill.

In essence, the bill, which has yet to be introduced in the House, would update an archaic 1902 law, giving the Library more specific legal authority to do what it has been doing on a fee basis for almost a century—distributing cataloging information, copying films or photographs, acquiring books overseas for other libraries. The bill would also allow the Library to operate a revolving fund under specific authority, rather than relying on the Gift and Trust Fund Act of 1965, which has been challenged as inadequate by the General Accounting Office.

"Many commercial enterprises mine the Library's cataloging information and its collections and sell that information, variously packaged, for a profit," said Peter Braestrup, a Library spokesman. "We do not intend to get into their business."

The Library's vast "core services"—cataloging and making accessible its collections of almost 100 million items, making available to all visitors its cataloging data, answering more than 600,000 reference questions a year by mail or telephone, interlibrary loan of books—will remain free under the Pell bill. Indeed, the library has no intention of charging fees for every new service it develops as technology advances, Mr. Braestrup said. And any new fee services will be discussed and publicized in advance.

According to other Library officials, such fee services might possibly include foreign-language abstracts and translations, bibliographies, data searches, analytical studies and various types of customized reports drawn from library collections.

"We believe all our collections should continue to be freely accessible and intensively used," Mr. Braestrup said. "But we do not believe that the taxpayers should pay to help out an individual lawyer in San Diego who wants our Law Library specialists to work six hours of overtime to ferret out a series of cases in Portuguese contract law, rather than coming here to do it himself. We do not believe that the taxpayer should foot the bill for a time-consuming search for—and copies of—our best 19th century maps of Binghamton, N.Y. These are special services—and individuals requesting such services should get them. But they should pay for them on a cost-recovery basis. Just common sense, as we see it."

Library managers, Mr. Braestrup noted, see fee services as marginal to the Library (with its 1991 federal budget of $305 million) but highly useful to various specialized groups. As the Information Age spawns new specialized demands, he added, "the Library must be able to respond—without diverting limited taxpayer resources from its core services to Congress, the library community, scholars and the general public."

KQED-TV to Air Award-Winning Program on Library of Congress

New technologies to bring the resources of the world's largest library into towns across America are explored in "Memory & Imagination: New Pathways to the Library of Congress," an hourlong television program set to air on KQED-TV, San Francisco, Channel 9 on Aug. 28 at 10:30 p.m.

Several famous personalities were enlisted to comment on the resources of the Library, which now contains close to 100 million items in 470 languages and is growing at the rate of 7,000 items a day. Those appearing in the film include Francis Ford Coppola, Steve Jobs, Richard Wurman and Stewart Brand.

Additional commentary is supplied by Sam Waterston, Gore Vidal, Isaac Stern, Julia Child, Ted Koppel, Pete Seeger, James Watson, Penn & Teller, Sen. Albert Gore Jr., Henry Steele Commager, Vartan Gregorian, Michael Feinstein, John Hope Franklin and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

"We should be augmenting the libraries we have with links to the Library of Congress," says Steve Jobs, cofounder of Apple Computer and president of NeXT Inc.

"Memory & Imagination" has received the Grand Award for "Best Information Production" at the International Film & TV Festival of New York, the "Best in Show" award in the CINDY competition sponsored by the Association of Visual Communicators as well as recognition from CINE and the American Film and Video Festival.

LC Junior Fellows Meet Their Benefactor

The first group of Library of Congress Junior Fellows had a chance to meet their benefactor, Mrs. Jefferson Patterson, at a reception in her honor on July 18. The fellowships give college students at the junior, senior or graduate level the opportunity to learn more about the Library's resources and about career opportunities available at the Library.

The students were assigned projects in the Geography and Map; Manuscript; Music; Rare Book and Special Collections; Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound; and Prints and Photographs divisions.

On July 25 Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole gave a history of the Library to the students, and acting Deputy Librarian of Congress Winston Tabb detailed the organization of the Library.

On Aug. 8 the students had lunch with Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and gave presentations about their assignments following the luncheon.

With Mrs. Patterson in the Librarian's office are (back row, from left) Kimberly McCall of Hampton University, Peter J. Relic of Bowdoin College, Eric More of the University of Texas at Austin, LaNina Clayton of Albany University, Mary McCarthy of George Washington University, Shannon Hughes of Hollins College, Robin Bullard of the University of the District of Columbia, Dawn Winn of St. Lawrence University and Brigitte Yeh of Princeton University, (front row) John Johnson of Harvard University, Michael Coventry of Goshen College and Jan Brunner of Trinity College.

LC Cosponsors 'Decade of the Brain' Symposium

The Library of Congress and the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Md., cosponsored an all-day symposium on July 24 on the "Decade of the Brain."

A July 17, 1990, presidential proclamation called upon all public officials and all Americans to observe the decade with programs, ceremonies and activities to increase awareness of the benefits derived from brain research. Among those taking part in the symposium were (back row, from left): Declan Murphy, executive assistant to the Librarian; Drs. Gerald Edelman, John Searle and Lewis Judd, and from Congress Rep. James Leach (front, left) and Sen. Bill Bradley. *Photo by Reid Baker*

The National Translations Center:

Providing Access to Foreign Research

by Karl R. Green

More than half of the world's scientific and technical information to be published this year will be in languages other than English.

This situation creates an obvious need for translations.

The National Translations Center, a unit of the Library's Cataloging Distribution Service, is the primary national clearinghouse that provides researchers with English translations in the natural, physical, medical and social sciences.

Unfortunately, many people who could benefit from the center's services don't know of its existence. According to David Edwards, executive director of the Joint National Committee for Languages: "The National Translations Center provides a one-of-a-kind resource and is invaluable to business and industry. It is also one of the best-kept secrets in the United States."

Historically, most non-English scientific works have been in Russian, German, Japanese and French, but now include increasing numbers in Chinese, Portuguese, Korean and Arabic, as well as Hungarian, Czech and other East European languages. This research can be crucial to American scientists and policymakers.

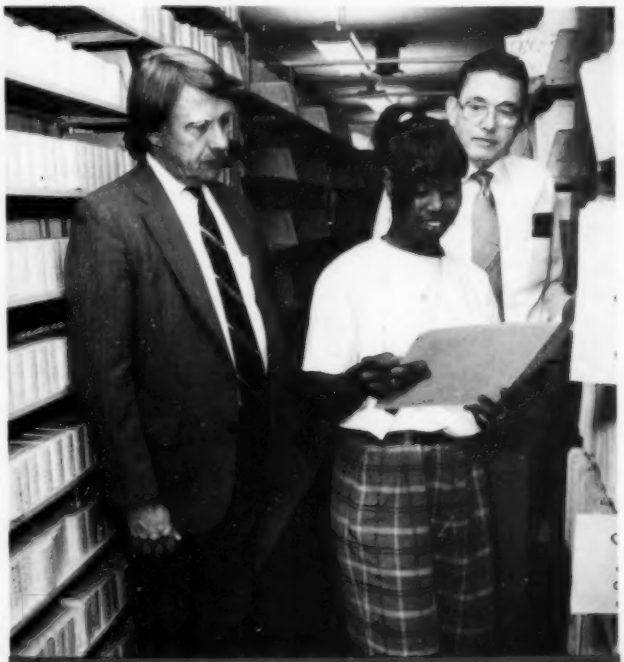
Translations, however, present certain problems.

First, they are expensive. The work of the rare translator who commands both the languages and the technology is well compensated.

Second, as a practical matter, the translations typically take several weeks to produce, which can cause delays in the work of an American engineer or medical researcher.

In a cooperative effort, English-language translations prepared by scientific and professional societies, governmental agencies, special libraries, corporations and other industrial organizations, colleges, universities and other institutions are deposited in the center. Most of the translations received are of journal articles and patents, but there are representations of technical reports, standards and conference papers, among other types. The translations are cataloged and copies are produced on demand on a fee-for-service basis.

Margot B. Licitis, a language specialist at Rohm and Haas Co. in Philadelphia, said her company "has a symbiotic relationship with the NTC, since we contribute heavily—and promptly—to their collection. The first step when we translate a document is to contact the center."



File photo: Discussing one of the many thousands of translations available from the National Translations Center are (from left) head Karl Green, clerk-typist Crystal Coleman and technical information specialist Norman Lamb. *Photos by Jim Higgins*

The National Translations Center is a cooperative service organization, set up primarily for the purpose of saving U.S. industry and government the cost of retranslating materials that have already been translated by other participating organizations.

The center originated when demand for translations was great. During and at the end of World War II, tens of tons of scientific and technical paper documentation were gathered from Nazi Germany and made available to American industry. Many survey documents and indexes were created in English by British and U.S. intelligence organizations to provide general information and over-

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Karen Sturges-Vera, technical information specialist, helps a patron with a request for a translation.

Translations Center

(Cont. from p. 307)

views, but the detailed documents useful to scientists and engineers were distributed in German.

Rivalry with the Soviet Union and keen U.S. interest in its industrial and military development intensified the demand for timely and economical translations. The National Translations Center was formed under the auspices of the Special Libraries Association in 1952 at the John Crerar Library in Chicago in an effort to share unpublished translations of this flood of material on a systematic basis and thereby use the limited translating resources of the United States more efficiently.

The mission of the center was to:

☐ gather unpublished translations,

☐ identify other sources of existing translations,

☐ organize and index these documents,

☐ ensure that the bibliographic information was widely distributed,

☐ perform searching services and

☐ provide copies on demand for a minimal fee.

From 1952 until 1988 the center remained in Chicago in association with the John Crerar Library and faithfully carried out its mission. Printed indexes were issued, announcing translations grouped by general subject, and cumulations allowed effective, quick access to individual journal titles and authors. In 1969 the Special Libraries Association published *Consolidated Index of Translations* into English, a compilation of 17 indexes covering information on more than 142,000 translations made available from 1953 through 1966. A succeeding index, *Consolidated Index of Translations–II*, covered an additional 250,000 items from 1967 through 1984, cumulating the information covered by the center's printed monthly index, *Translations Register–Index*.

By 1989 more than 400,000 translations of journal articles, patents, conference papers, standards and other forms of technical information had been gathered by the center; locations of an additional 600,000 translations had been identified. A card catalog with more than 1 million entries, by author, translation number and journal citation, had been created to locate translations. In an important step, the center ceased publication of its index and joined with the International Translations Center in Delft, the Netherlands, for the years 1987 and 1988 to produce a combined product, *World Translations Index*, which lists translations into major Western European languages rather than only English. *World Translations Index* was made available on-line through Dialog in 1989 and continues to be produced as a printed product by the ITC.

In June 1988, it was decided to discontinue support for NTC operations, effective January 1989. The reason: insufficient income was derived from the NTC to justify its continued operation within an academic framework. The operators of the NTC at this time sought a successor organization and contacted the Library of Congress, among many other organizations.

Following discussions at the Library, and also following an LC staff visit to Chicago, the Translations Center's assets were offered to the Library as a gift. This offer was accepted in January 1989 and the center's materials were transferred. The NTC began operation as a fee-based service at the Library of Congress on May 15, 1989, and has gathered and cataloged translations, performed manual searching and provided copies of translations on demand ever since.

Two fundamental principles guide the center's operations at the Library:

First, the presence of the NTC at LC will not diminish existing free services or access to reference materials.

Second, the NTC is a fee-for-service, cost-recovery operation, paid for by its users.

The question of why the Library of Congress should support the activities of the National Translations Center has been raised both publicly and privately. The answer: The center is a valuable national resource that is important to scholars and U.S. industry in keeping current on international developments

in science and technology. By sharing translations, the cost and time of retranslating is eliminated.

The center provides service within 24 hours of receipt of an order, and can send articles by fax or overnight mail. Thus the center expedites delivery of information as well as cutting duplication of translation efforts.

Items in the NTC collection are deposited under an assumption of confidentiality. Information that would identify the party originating the translation is removed, thereby ensuring the privacy of the participating industrial organizations. In addition, customers of the center have the assurance that information regarding their transaction will not be disclosed. The public's confidence in the Library makes it a particularly appropriate location for a joint government and industrial effort such as the National Translations Center.

As a cooperative effort among corporations, federal agencies, universities, professional societies, and other interested parties, the center has survived since 1952, despite adversity.

These translations are the most important current scientific and technical information in foreign languages. These are the patents and journal articles U.S. scientists and engineers have identified as critical in their current research and have been willing to commit substantial resources to translate.

The National Translations Center currently has six permanent staff members: the head, three technical information specialists who provide both cataloging and reference support, a program assistant who provides administrative support and product management and a clerk/typist who works with both acquisitions and document delivery.

Products and Services. Current products and services consist of searches of the NTC card files (and a number of on-line records that are being created) to determine whether the center holds a translation, and copying these holdings in a labor-intensive page-by-page operation. Fax transmission, overnight mail and airmail for foreign deliveries are also available at additional cost. Services must be prepaid, but deposit accounts can be established, and Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Copies of the older printed indexes are still available.

Steps for developing a fuller product line are being pursued. The center, in coordination with other areas of the Cataloging Distribution Service, is developing a monthly tape distribution service of records for the translations in the MARC format. This service is designed to promote the widest possible distribution of the citations through other announcement sources such as abstract journals and commercial or noncommercial on-line services.

Two products are now in the process of development and production: a retrospective tape of MARC records for materials cataloged since the center moved to Washington (approximately 10,000 citations) and a monthly subscription service to supplement this base tape. It is estimated that monthly tapes will include about 1,000 citations per issuance for the first year and increase to 2,000 monthly for the second year. Coverage will include the more than 18,000 translations that have been deposited since the NTC has been part of the Library, as well as materials cataloged by other organizations. More than 80 percent of these documents have been donated by private industry.

At current commercial translating rates, these 18,000 translations would cost approximately $7.2 million to produce. Projected delivery date of these products is October 1991 with a test tape available early in September.

In a related activity, an intense marketing effort is being made to increase acquisitions of unpublished translations, primarily those from the federal sector but also traditional private sources of supply. Areas of specific subject interest and origin will be targeted for in-depth exploration as the acquisitions proceed.

While it is clear that there are possibilities of distributing a large number of translations and making a significant impact on the science and technology information field in the United States, there are two major difficulties. *(Cont. on p. 310)*

Benjamin Hull, technical information specialist, prepares a document in his office.

Translations Center

(Cont. from p. 309)

The first is compliance with photocopying permissions requirements under copyright law. The National Translations Center and the Copyright Clearance Center Inc. (CCC) have reached a comprehensive solution. The not-for-profit CCC was established by photocopy users, authors and publishers at the suggestion of Congress that a mechanism be created to facilitate compliance with the law. The CCC operates a centralized photocopy authorizations and payment system. The NTC will maintain the records of translations copied and submit fees for those items to the CCC, which in turn will equitably distribute these royalties to the original publishers of the foreign-language publications. Thus, all copying and distribution activities of the National Translations Center are in compliance with the provisions of the U.S. Code.

The second problem is that while the federal government translates a very large number of scientific and technical papers in its routine work, many of the translations are not made available for further distribution.

Resolving the copyright issue and clarifying the rights and rewards of copyright holders, translation producers and translation users will increase use of these hidden resources of the federal government.

Crystal Coleman takes a translation order from a fax machine.

Karl Green is head of the National Translations Center.

During one phase of the LC Summer Educators Institute, whose theme was "The Bill of Rights and Beyond," Robert Gee, a reference specialist in the Law Library, explained on July 17 how to research federal case law. Afterward, he and reference specialist David Rabasca (foreground, far right) went to the Law Library Reading Room, where they assisted the 30 or so educators from around the U.S. in getting some hands-on experience answering a legal question. *Photo by Reid Baker*

LC in the News

The 20th anniversary of the Library's Cataloging in Publication program warranted a cover story in the July *Library Journal*.

"The Power of CIP," penned by Robert R. Newlen, team leader of the Congressional Research Service's Senate Reference Center, noted that "it rarely occupies more than two inches of space on a book's copyright page. Most readers barely notice it, but to the nation's libraries and publishing community, Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication (CIP) has enormous significance."

According to Mr. Newlen, more than 45,000 CIP records were produced in fiscal 1990.

CIP's goal is to furnish data within 10 working days of receipt of an application from a publisher. According to *LJ*, however, "CIP completes the majority of data within eight days."

In exchange for its work, CIP requires publishers to give the Library a copy of the first edition of the book, used to complete the cataloging record, which is then released on MARC tapes.

A survey by SKP Associates is being conducted to gauge customer satisfaction. According to CIP Chief John Celli, "The data we obtain from these questionnaires will have a significant influence in shaping the future of the CIP program."

The "Cataloging in Source" program began as an experiment in 1958 with a $55,000 grant from the Council on Library Resources. Despite the program's success, it was dropped for being prohibitively expensive.

When the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Council on Library Resources in 1971 awarded a grant to LC, the Cataloging in Publication program began that July 1.

According to Mr. Newlen, "Twenty years later, and now part of LC's operating budget, the CIP program has processed more than half a million titles."

'Justice for the Benefit of All':

LC Mounts Exhibit on Centennial of International Copyright in U.S.

Though the idea of giving copyright protection to foreign works seems almost as natural as granting such protection to domestic works, it was only a century ago that the United States granted such rights. "Justice for the Benefit of All," a new exhibit at the Library, commemorates the centennial of international copyright in the United States.

According to Martha Hopkins, exhibit director, "it was only when the interests of writers and publishers were addressed in a compromise that the issue was solved." Copyright backers knew they could not overcome the powerful publishers, who argued that the new law would drive up the price of books. So they agreed to a compromise that required copyright items to be manufactured in the United States.

The Chace International Copyright Act of 1891, which went into effect July 1 that year, placed specific restrictions on foreign works that could receive copyright protection in the United States.

The protection was granted only to citizens of foreign countries that gave copyright protection to Americans "on substantially the same basis as [to] its own citizens, or when such foreign state or nation is a party to an international agreement which provides for reciprocity in the granting of copyright, by the terms of which agreement the United States of America may, at its pleasure, become a party to such agreement."

The existence of either of these conditions was to be established by presidential proclamation.

On the day the act became effective, President Benjamin Harrison proclaimed that Belgium, France, Switzerland and Great Britain and its possessions gave U.S. citizens copyright protection "on substantially the same basis as to the citizens of those countries." Thus works from these nations could receive copyright protection in the United States.

Two days later, on July 3, the first application for a foreign copyright came into Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford's office. The application was from the Macmillan Co. of New York, agents for Oxford and Cambridge university presses.

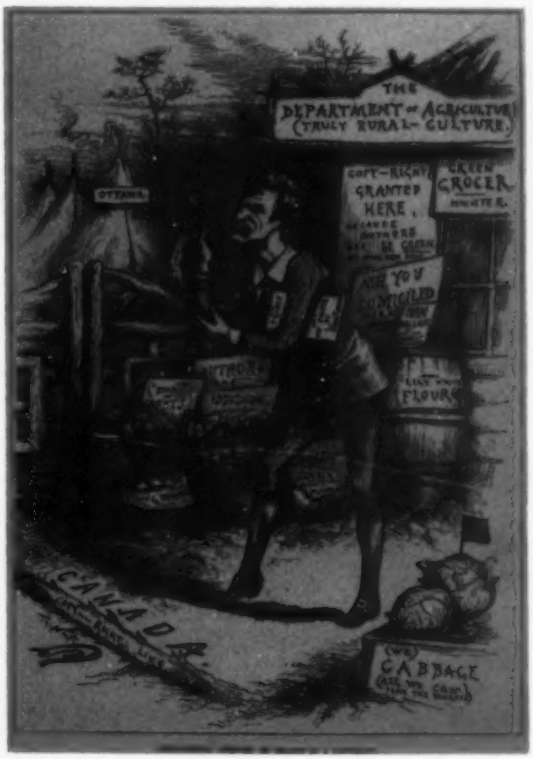
The first foreign books copyrighted under U.S. law were *Saints and Sinners*, described as a "new and original drama of modern English middle-class life," and *Tim: A Story of School Life*.

On July 6 eight French works were registered for copyright. A week later, a Canadian chart, "The Tabular Phonetic Alphabet," was registered. And on Nov. 27, an application was received from Belgium for musical compositions.

"Justice for the Benefit of All" features the eagle-feather quill pen (see story, p. 312) that President Benjamin Harrison used March 3, 1891, to sign the bill into law.

The exhibit also will display the original act, and Harrison's presidential proclamation. Copyright registration ledgers signed by Librarian Ainsworth Rand Spofford will also be shown. From 1870 to 1897, Spofford was the de facto Register of Copyrights, until such a position was officially established in 1897. According to Frank Evina, a senior copyright information specialist, "Spofford was a champion of the cause of international copyright, and those deposits enhanced the Library's collections." Spofford was also a strong backer of the Copyright Act of 1870, which centralized all deposits in the

(Cont. on p. 313)



This caricature of Mark Twain, from the pages of *Harper's*, mocked the state of international copyright. (The Agriculture Department in Canada at the time processed its citizens' copyright claims; to "cabbage" is to steal or filch.)

Mr. Johnson's Famous Quill Pen

When, on March 4, 1891, the first U.S. law recognizing international copyright was signed, 54 years had passed since Sen. Henry Clay had introduced the first such measure in Congress. It had been a tortuous journey, a classic illustration of Murphy's Law. Throughout the years, the efforts of many people kept the dream alive, while politics, economics and just plain bad luck seemed to conspire to kill it.

Among the team that ultimately brought it off was Robert Underwood Johnson, an editor of *Century Magazine*, and secretary of the American Authors' Copyright League. During the summer of 1890, when prospects for passage of the bill then pending seemed particularly bright, Johnson contacted G. Brown Goode at the Smithsonian Institution. He asked for—and received—an enormous feather plucked from a live American eagle. He then had it made into a quill pen, to be used by the president in signing the bill into law.

But once again the bill seemed close to failure—this time overwhelmed by the McKinley Tariff Bill debate, and crushed by a congressional stampede to get out of town to campaign in the fall elections.

The internationalists lost no time in pressing the issue when Congress returned. After wrangling over proposed versions of the manufacturing clause, the measure was finally agreed to by both chambers of Congress on March 4, 1891, with less than two hours remaining in the congressional session. President Benjamin Harrison was in the Capitol and was prepared to sign the bill. Johnson called for the quill pen, only to be told that it had been forgotten, and was in the president's secretary's desk at the White House.

Outside, Washington's streets were glazed over by a freezing rainstorm. What to do? Johnson hurried out to the Capitol Plaza where the president's carriage waited. He gave the coachman a dollar, promising him two more when he returned from the White House with the quill pen. Johnson records that the round trip took 45 minutes—pen, coachman, horse and carriage all arriving without mishap—and the bill was signed.

On the following day, writer-lawyer Thomas Nelson Page wrote to Johnson: "I have been hearing all my life of plucking a feather from the American eagle but never knew it to be done before. Thou art the man. Accept my congratulations."

The pen was used, at Johnson's behest, several times later, most notably by President Taft to sign the Pan-American Copyright Treaty, the charter for the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and the joint resolution providing for the construction of the Lincoln Memorial.

In presenting the pen to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, Johnson required that it be kept, in general, in the fireproof vault of the academy's new fireproof building, that it not be used for "any petty or partisan purpose," and that it should be employed for "similar uses related to the honor of America or of American literature and to international justice and peace."

Register of Copyrights Ralph Oman holds Mr. Johnson's pen and the certification attesting to its use in signing the international copyright bill into law in 1891. *Photo by Ginger Gilliland*

The pen has had an illustrious history, having been used by President William Howard Taft in the signing of a 1913 bill authorizing construction of the Lincoln Memorial. Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge also used the pen. And 14 of the signers of the 1928 Treaty of Paris authorized the document using Johnson's pen.

With thanks to the academy for agreeing to loan the quill pen, the Library honors it in a way that, no doubt, would have pleased Robert Underwood Johnson enormously.

—*Gayle Harris*

Justice *(Cont. from p. 311)*

Library, ensuring its national role.

Passage of the 1891 act did not come easily or quickly, however. An international copyright bill was submitted 12 times before one was adopted. Lack of protection for foreign works was not due to a shortage of interest in the issue. On the contrary, it was a deliberate policy designed to encourage the inexpensive production of books. The situation allowed U.S. publishers to pirate foreign works freely, since no royalties were required.

"Charles Dickens came to the United States in 1841. Because of his great popularity here he was losing a great deal of money and was an outspoken advocate of international copyright," Ms. Hopkins said. "Then American authors joined in because their works were being stolen overseas."

The practice was especially common for British works because no translations were necessary for reprinting. "You can imagine how angry British authors were," said Ms. Hopkins. So angry that in 1837, 56 of them sent a petition to Sen. Henry Clay of Kentucky asking for U.S. copyright protection. The British press in the 1840s referred to the United States as "the Barbary Coast of literature."

"Charles Dickens came to the United States in 1841. Because of his great popularity here he was losing a great deal of money and was an outspoken advocate of international copyright," Ms. Hopkins said. "Then American authors joined in because their works were being stolen overseas."

Dickens called himself the "greatest loser by the existing law alive." He vented his spleen in books such as *American Notes* and *Martin Chuzzlewit*, which offered scathing critiques of American society.

U.S. publishers called Dickens greedy and said he did not appreciate his popularity. Just as Dickens had predicted, international copyright did not come until his death in 1870.

"The Americans' plight was exacerbated by the fact that the lack of protection for foreign works made them more attractive than American works to U.S. publishers looking for a cheap source of material. Thus many American authors could find no publishers interested in paying them to print their work.

Mark Twain was one of those American writers angered by the situation. Unauthorized versions of his books were produced in Canada and Britain. In the early 1880s, he traveled to Canada so that he could claim Canadian residence and thus gain copyright protection. But his strategy failed. Not to be deterred, he began publishing his books in Britain before U.S. publication, obtaining British copyright, which Canada, as part of the empire, honored. According to Ms. Hopkins, Twain's best-known work, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, was first published in Britain.

Twain delivered a speech on copyright pirates during one of his trips to Canada, as only someone with the author's acerbic sense of wit could do:

Perhaps "a day will come," he said, "when, in the eye of the law, literary property will be as sacred as whiskey, or any other of the necessaries of life. In this age of ours, if you steal another man's label to advertise your own brand of whiskey with, you will be heavily fined and punished for violating that trademark; if you steal the whiskey without the trademark, you go to jail, but if you could prove that the whiskey was literature, you could steal them both and the law wouldn't say a word. It grieves me to think how far more profound and reverent a respect the law would have for literature if a body could only get drunk on it."

The exhibit focuses on the struggle for the law's passage. It also includes items relating to events up until the present, including the United States' joining of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in 1989. The United States now has copyright relations with 113 countries.

"The situation before the law's passage was a clash of literary, artistic and moral interests vs. business interests," said Ms. Hopkins. "Writers didn't have nearly as much clout as did the publishers."

The new law did little to protect Gilbert and Sullivan, for example, whose works had been widely pirated in the United States. To prevent piracy of *The Pirates of Penzance*, the duo produced the operetta in America in 1879 before it opened in Britain.

Perhaps "a day will come when. . . literary property will be as sacred as whiskey. . . . It grieves me to think how far more profound and reverent a respect the law would have for literature if a body could get drunk on it."

To protect their work here, Gilbert and Sullivan went so far as to lock up the music between performances. The crafty pirates tried to bribe orchestra members for the score and attempted to copy down the words during performances.

Though Gilbert and Sullivan were able to protect *Pirates*, they were not so successful with 1885's *The Mikado*. A U.S. court denied the operetta copyright protection. Arthur Sullivan was defeated in what he called his "guerrilla warfare."

"Justice for the Benefit of All: International Copyright Law Centennial 1891-1991" will be on display in the Mumford Foyer in the Madison Building through Nov. 3. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:30-9:30; Saturday 8:30-5; and Sunday 1-5.

—Guy Lamolinara

LC Marks Centennial of Collector, Donor Rosenwald

The 100th birthday of Lessing J. Rosenwald (1891-1979) will be celebrated by the Library in honor of its greatest rare book donor with the opening of a major exhibition of books from the Rosenwald Collection.

The Library will also publish a limited edition book of essays on 100 books from the Rosenwald Collection and, most significantly, will open the Lessing J. Rosenwald Memorial Room in the Thomas Jefferson Building.

"It is the generosity of Lessing J. Rosenwald and other donors that has built the Rare Book and Special Collections Division into one of the world's finest," said Larry Sullivan, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

☐ **Exhibition:** On Sept. 14, the Library will show off 100 books from the collection. These volumes span the entire field of book illustration, including a 14th century miniature manuscript Book of Hours; the woodblock prints in a copy of a 15th century block book *Apocalypse;* William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience;* 20th century art, including such books as Picasso's illustrations for Balzac's *Le chef-d'oeuvre inconnu;* and Leonard Baskin's *Horned Beatles.* The exhibit will run through January 1992.

☐ **Limited Edition Book.** The Library will issue a volume of 100 essays written by 100 experts on Rosenwald Collection books. *Vision of a Collector* will include an appreciation of Lessing J. Rosenwald by William Matheson, former chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, and illustrations of each of the books described. The volume, printed by W. Thomas Taylor of Austin, will be sold in a limited subscription edition and in a regular trade edition. A few reservations for copies from the subscription edition are still available by request from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Copies will be available in early September.

☐ **Memorial Room:** The Library will open a new Lessing J. Rosenwald Memorial Room in September. The room will contain furnishings from Alverthorpe, Mr. Rosenwald's private gallery in Jenkintown, Pa. The room, set off by the giant "Head of Orpheus" sculpture by Carl Milles, will house parts of the Rosenwald Collection.

☐ **Lecture:** On Sept. 13 the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and the Library's Center for the Book will cosponsor a lecture by G. Thomas Tanselle.

The lecture is part of the Engelhard Lecture Series on the History of the Book. Dr. Tanselle, vice president of the Guggenheim Foundation and noted textual scholar and bibliographer, will speak on "A Description of Descriptive Bibliography." The lecture will be given in the newly renovated Rare Book and Special Collections Division Reading Room, Jefferson Building, Room 256, at 4:30 p.m.

From 1943, when Lessing J. Rosenwald deeded his rare book collection to the Library, until his death in 1979, the Rosenwald Collection grew from about 400 volumes to more than 2,600 rare books, plus an additional reference library of some 15,000 volumes. Rosenwald believed that he received much from his country and he felt obliged to give something in return. He said that "the National Library deserves and demands the strongest rare book collection it can possibly build," and he acted on this belief on a grand scale.

The Rosenwald Collection of illustrated books is perhaps the finest in the Western Hemisphere. Many of the Library's greatest treasures are in this collection, including the Giant Bible of Mainz, William Blake's *The Book of Urizen,* Galileo's *Discorsi* and the *Apocalypsis Sancti Johannis.* The Rosenwald Collection is known for its assemblage of books, plates, proofs and engravings relating to the works of William Blake, the great English poet, printer and philosopher. Among the Blake works is the only known copy of *The Book of Ahania.*

Rosenwald's passion for collecting began in 1926 with the purchase of an etching by 19th century English artist D.Y. Cameron, titled "The Royal Scottish Academy," that he saw in the window of Sessler's Book Shop in Philadelphia. Within two years, he began buying rare books, and by 1930 his collections were beginning to reach levels of international significance.

Rosenwald wanted to share his collection with a wide audience. When one of his prints was damaged by insects during a South American exhibition, he is reported to have said, "Better to be seen and eaten than not seen at all."

Lessing Rosenwald at Alverthorpe, his private gallery in Jenkintown, Pa.

500 Libraries Receive Commemorative CD-ROM from LC

Five hundred libraries—in every state and territory of the United States—recently received a free commemorative one-disc CD-ROM from the Library of Congress that contains the USMARC bibliographic records for items added to the Library's collections from 1988 through 1990.

Because the Main Reading Room is the principal gateway to the Library's vast research collections, the disc was specially created to share the festivities associated with its reopening on June 3 with libraries outside of Washington—to try to connect such libraries and their patrons with LC's collections and with the spirit of the reopening celebration.

The 500 libraries were selected at random by Library officials from those who responded to an invitation from Dr. Billington that was sent to 20,000 public and postsecondary libraries in May.

As Dr. Billington has testified about the Library of Congress of the future: "Technology—the electronic transmission of information—will make it possible to become a library without walls. This library will increasingly serve the American people nationwide through a sophisticated network of local libraries which will be the community outlets funneling knowledge from the Library of Congress to local users." The CD-ROM package, which incorporates some of the color and design elements used in the commemorative bookmark and the new Main Reading Room brochure, includes the disc, installation software and a detailed user's manual.

—Helen Dalrymple

Looking on while Dr. Billington picks the winners are (from left): Pat Gray of Cataloging Distribution Service; John Cole, director of the Center for the Book; Winston Tabb, acting Deputy Librarian of Congress; Suzanne Thorin, chief of the General Reading Rooms Division; Donald Curran, associate librarian for Constituent Services; and Kevin Flood and Loche McLean of CDS.

PUBLICATIONS

New from Federal Research Division

The Library of Congress Federal Research Division has issued the latest three volumes in a series of country studies published under an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army: *Angola: A Country Study*, edited by Thomas Collelo; *Côte d'Ivoire: A Country Study*, edited by Robert E. Handloff; and *Bolivia: A Country Study*, edited by Rex Hudson and Dennis M. Hanratty.

The series consists of more than 100 titles and covers 143 sovereign states and 15 dependencies. A typical book in the series, intended as an introduction to an individual country, contains five chapters describing and analyzing its history, society, economy, government and politics, and national security. All books in the series are hardbound and contain maps, charts, photographs, tables, chapter bibliographies, a glossary and an index.

During the past several years, more than 1 million copies of the books in the series have been sold, and more than 150,000 copies have been distributed to depository libraries throughout the United States.

A list of books in print in the series is available from the Country Studies Program, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

To purchase the books, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Titles and stock numbers must be cited when ordering (Angola—$16, 008-020-01240-8; Côte d'Ivoire—$15, 008-020-01241-6; Bolivia—$16, 008-020-01244-1). Include check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

New Science Tracer Bullets

LC Science Tracer Bullet: Chemical and Biological Warfare (CBW). ISSN 0090-5232. (TB 90-9). November 1990. Compiled by John F. Buydos, this literature guide provides refer-

(Cont. on p. 316)

News from the Center for the Book

Year of the Lifetime Reader. United States Swimming has become the 105th national organization to agree to participate in the Library's "Year of the Lifetime Reader" national reading promotion campaign.

Becoming a Lifetime Reader, an annotated list of 30 "top-notch books for children from preschool through age 14" is a new joint publication of *Book Links* magazine, the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and ALA Graphics. A set of 100 costs $24 and may be ordered from ALA Graphics, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Flanking "Books Make a Difference" contest winner Lisa Brower are Center for the Book Program Officer Maurvene Williams (left) and Program Specialist Anne Boni.

Elie Wiesel Lecture at LC. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel presented the inaugural address in the B'nai B'rith Drabinsky Lecture Series at the Library of Congress on July 9, (see LC *Information Bulletin,* July 29). Mr. Wiesel's lecture, "Learning and Tolerance," was sponsored jointly by B'nai B'rith and the Center for the Book as a Year of the Lifetime Reader program; B'nai B'rith is one of the Library's campaign partners.

Program on Older Adults as Lifetime Readers. John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, was the keynote speaker on June 27 in Atlanta at a preconference on "Library Services in Our Aging Society" held prior to the annual conference of the American Library Association. Sponsored by ALA's Reference and Adult Services Division, the all-day meeting emphasized programming ideas for older adults.

Student Contest Winner Visits LC. Lisa Brower, a seventh-grader at Elmbrook Middle School in Elm Grove, Wis., and the 1991 winner of *READ* magazine's "Books Make a Difference" essay contest, visited the Library with her father and brother on June 21. An expenses-paid trip to Washington and visit to the Library is the first-place prize in the competition, which is now in its ninth year.

Symposium on the Hebrew Book. To coincide with the June 20 opening of the exhibition "From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress," the Center for the Book sponsored a conference on "The Hebraic Book" in cooperation with the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland and LC's Hebraic Section (see LC *Information Bulletin,* July 29). Scholarly papers were presented on the following topics: the Library's Deinhard collection; medieval Hebrew manuscript painting; the Hebrew book in the Ottoman Empire; the Hebrew Book in Italy, the Hebrew Book in the New World and contemporary book arts. The Center for the Book and the Hebraic Section plan to publish a book based on the symposium papers.

Publications *(Cont. from p. 315)*

ence material in the collections of LC on the use of chemical agents and living pathogenic microorganisms to kill people, animals or plants.

LC Science Tracer Bullet: The Brain. ISSN 0090-5232. (TB 90-10). December 1990. Compiled by Hisako Halasz, this literature guide provides reference material in the collections of LC that reflects the most recent brain research.

LC Science Tracer Bullet: Civil Engineering: Public Works/Infrastructure. ISSN 0090-5232. (TB 91-2). January 1991. Compiled by John Buydos, this guide provides a review of the literature in the collections of LC that deals with publicly financed structures and facilities that support essential functions pertinent to land, water and air.

LC Science Tracer Bullet: Bioethics. ISSN 0090-5232. (TB 91-4). March 1991. Compiled by Cathy Martin and Michelle Cadoree, this literature guide provides reference material in the collections of LC that deals with the ethical principles governing the uses of biological and medical technology.

Copies of all these *Tracer Bullet* publications may be obtained free on request from the Science Reference Section, Science and Technology Division, LC, Washington, D.C. 20540.

LC Gets It All: Highlights of 1990 Acquisitions

Hundreds of thousands of items—maps, manuscripts, microforms, posters, photographs, motion pictures, magazines, newspapers, recordings and books—are acquired by the Library of Congress each year.

"The Library of Congress houses the largest and most diverse collection of recorded knowledge ever assembled on Earth," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "This collection is important to our democratic legislature . . . [as well as to] scholarship, since this Library is a place where the variety and scope of the collections make connections possible that cannot easily be made elsewhere."

During fiscal 1990 (Oct. 1, 1989–Sept. 30, 1990), the total number of items in the Library's collections grew to 97,505,044. This amounted to an increase of 7 million items over fiscal 1989, but some of this is attributable to a more careful counting of materials held in arrearages resulting from a special study conducted during the year.

Books in the classified collections (those with individual call numbers) amount to 15,095,645. The nonclassified collections, which encompass all of the other materials in the Library, come to 82,409,399.

Following are highlights of the items the Library added to its collections in 1990.

Music. The Library of Congress has been the principal repository for the music manuscripts of American composer Aaron Copland for many years. In 1990 LC received another 1,000 music manuscripts, plus personal and business correspondence, photographs and other items from Copland, who died in December 1990. The Music Division also received three significant additions to its unparalleled George and Ira Gershwin Collection: an incomplete manuscript of *Rhapsody in Blue*, as well as a large collection of legal documents and other papers relating to the work of the Gershwin brothers; a gift of a contract for the 1935 premiere of *Porgy and Bess*, signed by the Gershwins and DuBose and Dorothy Heyward; and a four-page manuscript in George Gershwin's hand for a dance sequence from the show "Rosalie."

Film. Among the highlights of film acquisitions were copies of most of the videotapes of the Pablo Casals Festival held between 1957 and 1973 in Puerto Rico, which will have significance for musicians and musicologists alike; and a copy of "Birthright" (1919), the earliest film made by pioneer black filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, which is a rare find.

Frederick Cook, whose papers may shed new light on the controversy over who reached the North Pole first.

Photographs. A portfolio edition of Danny Lyon's *Merci Gonaives*, a masterpiece of documentary photography, was acquired by the Library during 1990. It is a series of gelatin silver photographs, many of which were originally published in Lyon's 1988 book on Haiti and were taken preceding and following the recent fall of the Duvalier regime.

Posters. An important group of political posters from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and other countries of the Indian subcontinent, dating from the early 1940s through the mid-1970s, were added to the collections of the Library.

Architectural Drawings. The Library continued its efforts to build its holdings of drawings for Washington-area architecture, to supplement its strong existing coverage of the federal city from its founding through the 1960s. Negotiations were concluded for the receipt of gifts and deposits of original drawings by several outstanding contemporary architects, such as Cesar Pelli, Robert A.M. Stern, and Hugh Newell Jacobson, who have designed buildings in the Washington area in the last two decades.

Manuscripts. The Library's extensive holdings related to the federal judiciary were enhanced in 1990 with the addition of the papers of Judge Clement F. Haynsworth Jr., longtime chief of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, and Judge Frank Minis Johnson Jr., member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. Both collections will be rich sources of materials for scholars studying American legal history, the civil rights movement, labor law and Southern politics.

Papers of notable scientists given to the Library in the past year include those of Arctic explorer Frederick A. Cook, which scholars are already studying in an attempt to shed new light on the continuing controversy over whether he or Admiral Robert E. Peary reached the North Pole first; and the first installment of papers from Pulitzer Prize-winning biologist Edward O. Wilson, the world's foremost authority on ants and one of the country's

leading environmentalists. Wilson's controversial work in sociobiology and his theories about patterns of social behavior have made him well known far beyond purely scientific circles.

Two significant additions to the Library's manuscript and architectural collections occurred in late 1990, after the beginning of the current fiscal year: the papers of Asian scholar Owen Lattimore, amounting to some 32,000 items, and the very extensive professional files of noted designer Raymond Loewy, which include client files, financial records, designs and drawings, motion pictures, photographs, slides and memorabilia, some 360,000 items in all.

Maps. One of the major initiatives of the Library in map collecting in 1990 was the solicitation of local maps from U.S. Chambers of Commerce; approximately 5,000 were received in response to the Library's requests. With the recent political changes in Eastern Europe, large-scale topographic and geologic maps of the former communist bloc countries became available for the first time since World War II. Working with the State Department, the Library has been able to acquire many of these multi-sheet map series to bring its collections of Europe up-to-date. An older rare map purchased by the Library was one of the few extant hand-colored copies of Richard Griffith's 1839 six-sheet geological map of Ireland, titled "A General Map of Ireland to Accompany the Report of the Railway Commissioners showing the Principal Physical Features and Geological Structure of the Country Constructed in 1836 and Engraved in 1837-8."

Genealogical Resources. A CD-ROM version of the International Genealogical Index and the Family History Library Catalog of the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was acquired by the Library through copyright deposit, thus making the Library of Congress the only library, other than Mormon-affiliated branch libraries, to own the Index in the CD-ROM version.

Rare Books. A magnificent copy of the first edition of the official two-volume Dutch Bible (1702) illustrated with the biblical etchings of Romeyn de Hooghe in spectacular 18th century handcoloring was added to the Library's collections in 1990. Henry Bibb's *Narrative of the Life of Henry Bibb,* a piece of rare black Americana and one of the three or four best black autobiographies in American history, was another important addition. The private library of Bruce Rogers, one of the two most important American typographers of the 20th century, was a gift of the Carl Pforzheimer Foundation. It consists of copies of books designed and printed by Rogers along with his original artwork, correspondence and private book collection. It joins the personal working library, already at the Library of Congress, of the other great 20th century American typographer, Frederic Goudy.

Asian and Middle Eastern Materials. Additions to the Japanese collections include a set of facsimile editions of the autographic writings of Nichiren (1222-1282), founder of the still influential Nichiren branch of Japanese Buddhism, and a provocative 1989 study of Japan's foreign policy by Motofumi Asai (Nihon gaiko: hansei to tenkan). More than 400 items of nontrade serials and newspapers published by dissident labor, teacher, student, Christian and political organizations in Seoul were added to the Korean collections.

The acquisition of long runs of 20th century journals (*Melanges de la Faculte Orientale,* Beirut, 1906-1977; *Correspondence d'Orient,* Paris, 1908-1945; and *al-Ma'rad,* Beirut, 1921-1936) added significantly to the Library's holdings concerning the political evolution of Lebanon and other Middle Eastern nations. And a typographic masterpiece published in Berlin in 1933, *Soncino Gesselschaft Humash* was purchased with a grant from the Mitchell Foundation.

Hispanic Materials. The Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape added a video recording of Magdalena Garcia-Pinto's interview with Argentine novelist Abel Posse, an audio recording of short stories by Juan Bosch, the former president of the Dominican Republic, and a recording of José Sarney, former president of Brazil. The purchase of Miguel Calmon du Pin E. Almeida's *A Missao Especial do Visconde de Abrantes,* a rare book of much value to Brazilianists and other scholars interested in German immigration to Brazil and Texas, was an important addition to the Library's Portuguese collections. An exchange with the National Library of Argentina brought to the Library the only U.S. microfilm copy of *El Argentino,* 1891-1896, Argentina's first democratic newspaper.

Microforms. Notable acquisitions for the collections of the Microform Reading Room were 13,000 microfiche in the social sciences: publications of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; Amnesty International publications between 1962 and 1987; Human Rights Documents for the years 1980 to 1986; Records of the Subversive Activities Control Board for the years 1950 to 1972; and Lyndon Johnson National Security Files, Vietnam, for the years 1963 to 1965.

In most cases, these new additions to the Library's collections are already available for readers to use. In other cases some processing of the materials is necessary before they can be opened up to readers.

MEETING

Copyright Office and WIPO Host Spanish-Language Conference

The Copyright Office, in conjunction with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and with the cooperation of the Puerto Rican Intellectual Property Register, held a training seminar at the Library of Congress April 29-May 3. The official language of the proceedings was Spanish, with simultaneous translation provided.

The participants were from Latin America and were either high-level copyright officials or executives of copyright societies. The participants and their nations were: Leandro Rodriguez Miglio, Argentina; Alvaro Diez Astete, Bolivia; Suely de Carvalho Mathias da Silva, Brazil; Santiago Carlos Schuster Vergara, Chile; Guillermo Zea Fernandez, Colombia; Alvaro Saenz Zuniga, Costa Rica; Jose Maria Morfin Patraca, Mexico; Eric Lopez, Panama; J. Maria Elena Ojeda Cantero, Paraguay; Ruben Ugarteche Villacorta, Peru; Gustavo Vignoli, Uruguay; and Juan Luis Marturet of Venezuela.

Register of Copyrights Ralph Oman and Carlos Fernandez-Ballesteros, director, Developing Countries (Copyright) Division, WIPO, welcomed the participants and the invited speakers. Both noted the growing importance of copyright protection as a means of encouraging cultural creativity and economic development.

Among the highlights of the seminar was the keynote address by Librarian of Congress Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin.

The topics included the copyright laws of the U.S. and Latin America; in-depth discussions on collective administration of rights with presentations by the three U.S. performing rights organizations—ASCAP, BMI and SESAC; the role and function of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal; protection of and current issues concerning music and sound recordings, motion pictures and other audiovisual works, and literary works including computer programs and data bases; and a discussion of the Copyright Clearance Center and the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations.

Policy planning adviser Marybeth Peters discussed U.S. copyright law. Since there was much interest in U.S. adherence to the Berne Convention, she outlined the approach the United States had taken. She explained that to achieve the required consensus, a "minimalist" philosophy was adopted. Thus, the U.S. law was changed only where there was a clear conflict with the express provisions of the Berne Convention, and even then only as much as was necessary to resolve the conflict.

She explained that one of the most important questions was whether the treaty was self-executing; Congress concluded it was not. Thus, the Convention may not be applied directly in the United States, and the Convention itself does not confer any rights.

Ms. Peters mentioned that since joining the Convention, several laws had been passed that more directly fulfill this country's Berne obligations—one adds architectural works as a specified category of works in section 102(a); another provides moral rights to certain pictorial, graphic and sculptural works.

A number of participants noted that the laws of their countries were not 100 percent Berne-compatible. For example, the term of protection in Uruguay is life of the author and 40 years after his death.

An additional issue and one that remains unresolved is whether the United States will someday give retroactive protection to certain works that may have fallen into the public domain in the United States due to failure to comply with previous formalities in the U.S. law. There are many Latin American works, notably Mexican films, that remain in the public domain in America.

Ms. Peters explained that this issue was a difficult one and was one that included some constitutional issues. It was, however, a question that would not go away; Congress would ultimately have to face it.

Dr. Ulrich Uchtenhagen, former director general of the Swiss Society for Authors' Rights in Musical Works, presented an overview of collective administration of royalties for music in Latin American countries. He proposed creating a system of easily obtainable licenses to stem the problem of piracy of copyrightable works. He discussed the ongoing debate about whether such systems should be competitive or monopolistic and the advantages and disadvantages for the creators. The non-monopolistic American system was explained by Arnold A. Gurwitch, director of International Relations of ASCAP, and Ekke Schnabel, vice president, International Relations, BMI, and Bill Velez, director, Latin Music, BMI. Each explained the workings of his respective society and the competition to sign new composers to contracts.

Another highlight of the seminar was the presentation by Tom McPartland of BMG Music. Armed with charts, graphs and statistics, he revealed a thriving and rapidly growing market of Latin-based music in the United States. There are now 426 Spanish-language radio stations and three television networks, which are transmitted through 71 stations throughout the country.

Mr. McPartland stressed the importance of providing a high level of copyright protection that can benefit the creators of all countries. In fact, the discussions frequently returned to the need to improve collecting systems and the need for more cooperation to ensure that copyrights are respected and royalties are paid to the legal copyright owners. An observation frequently heard during the week from both the American participants and the Latin American participants was that the seminar provided an excellent opportunity to better understand the North American and Latin American copyright systems and to discuss the copyright problems and challenges faced by the participating countries.

Other invited speakers were Dr. Ricardo Antequera Parilli, secretary general, Inter-American Copyright Institute (IIDA), Venezuela; Mario F. Aguero, chairman of the U.S. Copyright Royalty Tribunal; Harvey Winter, director, Office of Intellectual Property and Competition, U.S. State Department; Jesse Abard, Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA); Pedro Salazar, Register of Intellectual Property, Puerto Rico; Miguel Angel Emery, vice president, (IIDA), Argentina; Christina C. Lomolino Harris, chief legal officer, Anti-Piracy, Motion Picture Association of America; Victor Blanco Labra, director of cultural affairs, TELEVISA, Mexico; Joachim Fernandez, SESAC Inc.; and Joseph Alen, vice president, the Copyright Clearance Center, and secretary general of the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations.

Speakers and participants frequently commented on the new and useful information presented. In his closing remarks, the Register noted that the seminar was a frank debate about the comprehensive commercial and legal realities affecting our hemisphere for copyright and authors and expressed confidence in future cooperation.

Special dinners and receptions were hosted by the Recording Industry of America and the Motion Picture Association of America.

Policy planning adviser Peters organized the seminar with assistance from Audrey Marcus, special assistant; Peter Vankevich, visual arts examiner; and others in the Copyright Office.

The WIPO organizer was Carlos Fernandez-Ballesteros.

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